



**Testimony of the American Lung Association in  
Connecticut in Support of Raised Senate Bill  
No. 5214 An Act Prohibiting the  
Idling of Motor Vehicles**

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Environment Committee  
Room 3200, Legislative Office Building  
Hartford, CT 06106

Good morning Senator Ed Meyer, Representative Richard Roy, and other Members of the Environment Committee. My name is Dawn Mays-Hardy; I serve as the Director of Health Promotion and Public Policy at the American Lung Association in Connecticut. I am here today to express our organization's support for Raised Senate Bill No. 5214 An Act Prohibiting the Idling of Motor Vehicles.

This legislation is a critical step in reducing toxic air emissions. Reducing vehicle emissions from idling is a simple, cost-free way to improve air quality, conserve fuel and reduce the costly health impact of air pollution.

Although great strides have been and are being made to make our air healthier, research indicates that the health damage done by air pollution occurs at lower and lower levels. In fact damage occurs at levels once believed to be safe. While we are especially concerned about protecting those with lung disease, the damage done by air pollution poses serious health risks to all of us. Over 470,000 Connecticut residents have asthma and other lung diseases. The proper management and treatment of these diseases is compromised when patients are exposed to air pollution.

It is extremely important to reduce vehicle exhaust and other sources of toxic air emissions to the lowest levels possible. Therefore, unnecessary idling including on private property, during livery activities, and or food delivery are potential health and environmental threats as well. We would prefer to see the law simply ban unnecessary idling without reference to a time limit. But if the three minute rule prevails, it should apply to all idling vehicles regardless of location and purpose.

According to EPA studies, commercial truck idling annually consumes more than one billion gallons of diesel fuel at considerable costs to the trucking industry, our environment and our health. Each year unnecessary truck idling emits more than 180,000 tons of nitrogen oxides, as well as high levels of fine particulate matter and other harmful air toxics. The cost savings alone are why some of the more competitive businesses like UPS have strong idling policies for their drivers.

There is no question that idling from other motor vehicles contributes additional hundreds of thousands of tons of preventable toxic air emissions.

The American Lung Association respectfully urges your unanimous support of this bill to assure that the air we breathe is clean. Clean air means healthy lungs.

Thank you.

Dawn Mays-Hardy, MS  
CT Director Health Promotion and Public Policy  
American Lung Association in Connecticut

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